

REMARKS

Claims 3-5, 8 and 10-25 are pending in this application, of which claims 8, 11 and 12 have been amended. Claims 13-25 have been added. Claims 2, 6, 7 and 9 have been cancelled in this response.

- (1) Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, because it depends on cancelled claim 1.

In this Response, claim 11 has been amended to depend on claim 12.

- (2) Claims 2-7 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Kuwabara (JP Publication No. 2003-040856).

Claim 12 has been amended to recite that the conductive polymer is a polyethylene dioxythiophene. Claim 13 also recites that the conductive polymer is a polymer obtained from 3,4-dioxythiophene. The amendment is supported at e.g., page 17, lines 5-20.

In addition, claim 12 has been amended to recite that the organic sulfonic acid is one selected from the group consisting of phenol sulfonic acid, cresol sulfonic acid and benzaldehyde sulfonic acid. The amendment is supported at page 5, lines 19-24.

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Kuwabara (JP Publication No. 2003-040856) discloses a salt of fluorobenzenesulfonic acid. Please see the abstract of Kuwabara. Thus, amended claim 12 is distinguished from Kuwabara.

(3) Claims 2-7 and 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Monden et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,344,966).

As stated by the Examiner, Monden et al. disclose, as a dopant, (1) an alkoxy-substituted naphthalene monosulfonate anion, (2) a heterocyclic sulfonate anion, and (3) an anion of an aliphatic polycyclic compound. Thus, amended claim 12 is distinguished from Monden et al.

(4) Claims 2-7, 9, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Shacklette et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,422,423).

Shacklette et al. do not disclose any poly(alkoxy thiophenes). Please see col. 3, lines 4-31. Thus, amended claims 12 and 13 are distinguished from Shacklette et al.

(5) Please note that none of the cited references suggests or motivates to modify the teaching into the structure recited in claims 12 or 13.

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(6) Claims 14-25 have been added. The amendment is supported at original claims. Claim 16 is also supported at page 18, lines 1-3.

Because none of the cited references discloses the subsequent step to provide the claimed organic sulfonate on or in the matrix of a conductive polymer obtained by oxidation polymerization, the invention recited in claims 14-25 are not anticipated by or obvious over the references. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(7) Claim 8 was found to be allowable, but objected to. In this Response, claim 8 has been amended into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, claim 8 should be allowed.

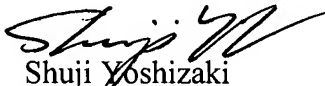
(8) In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant submits that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

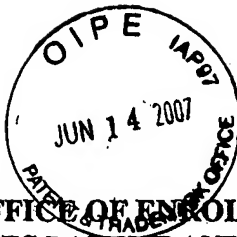
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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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Expires: July 7, 2007

Harry I. Moatz

Director of Enrollment and Discipline